a2

Optionally, Table 1 shows three examples of combinations of pulse widths. Fig. 4 shows combination of 4,095 numbers of recording pulses when 4,096 steps of gradation are expressed.

Please amend page 16, 4th full paragraph as follows:

As shown in Table 2, in case of 132 steps of dispersion, the pulses P1, P2, ... P127 of 132 numbers of pulses of P1, P2, ...P132 are pulses each having a width of 32, and the subsequent pulses P128, P129, P130, P131 and P132 are pulses having widths of 1, 2, 4, 8 and 16 in order and that they correspond to using bits of 5,6,7,8,9,10, and 11 (i.e., superordination bits for the larger pulse width) and using bits of 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4, (i.e., subordination bits for the smaller pulse width) respectively.

a3

Please amend paragraph bridging pages 20 and 21 as follows:

In this embodiment, then, the thermal patterns generated at neighboring pixels are shifted over and then recording is performed. Additionally, the number of heating elements being activated during each of the recording times is made substantially uniform. Specifically, particularly in the case of an image such as a solid image in which recording noise is easy to be generate, the positions of the heating elements made to be heated up are dispersed in correspondence to their corresponding pixel positions (i.e., the width direction at the time of performing recording), and also, are made to be uniform to each other with respect to time (i.e., the width direction at the time of recording), as shown in Fig. 7.

a4

Please amend page 21, 1st full paragraph as follows:

Namely, as shown in Fig. 7, when dispersion-recording is to be performed from dispersion 0 to dispersion 131, control is performed so that (1) it is avoided that neighboring

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A5 cont.

heating elements lie in the ON-status each time, and (2) the number of activated hearing elements 22 is Kept substantially uniform (see the figures in the rightmost column in the table).

Please amend page 21, 2nd full paragraph as follows:

Further, in Fig. 7, the number oil pulses having a width of 32 in the horizontal direction is counted (i.e., the chart shows the number of "ON-pulses" at each recording time), and it is

A6

evident that the number of pulses lying in ON-status at each recording time is 47-49, being substantially the same number. This indicates that voltage during each of the times is little changed, and therefore, voltage drops are also small.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 21-22 as follows:

Additionally, as shown in Fig. 7, the number of activated pulses is 47-49, being substantially the same number, so that the number of heating elements lying in ON—status at each of the times, are mutually substantially same. Therefore, the amount of the thermal film

A7

surface layer burned-in caused by heat keeps constant, resistance (a type of frictional resistance) when the film is transferred does not change, and generation of sound (namely recording noise) when transfer is suppressed.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 22-23 as follows:

More specifically, by dispersion-recording the image in a way such as shown in Fig. 7,

A8

the timing when the neighboring pixels are heated up, is shifted, and the number of pulses activated at each timing is kept substantially the same, so that a voltage drop may be suppressed and fluctuations in sticking between the recording layer and the thermal head are decreased,